

REMARKS

Applicant affirms the election to prosecute claims to the product invention, with traverse. The process claims are limited to producing “a regenerated collagen fiber”, i.e., they would not cover making “a cake out of a blend of pigment and binder”, for example. Claims 5 and 6 are retained in the application pending resolution of the issue raised.

The specification has been amended to improve English grammar and syntax. No new matter has been added, as will be readily apparent.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 2 has been rewritten in amended and independent form, incorporating the limitations of Claim 1. New claims 7-10 have been added.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on two bases; to wit:

1. as allegedly unpatentable over *Sakurada et al. v. Monsheimer et al.*; and
2. as allegedly unpatentable over *Takumi et al. v. Monsheimer et al.*

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of each of those rejections.

Sakurada et al. discloses a process of blending a collagen with polyvinyl alcohol in order to overcome shortcomings of the polyvinyl alcohol. The water soluble polyvinyl alcohol is the base ingredient. The collagen is combined with the polyvinyl alcohol in a ratio of less than 1 to 1. The *Sukurada et al.* process produces a fiber which has improved dye affinity and enhanced warm water resistance. The process promotes coagulation during fiber formation and permits the reduction of concentration of the fiber forming bath necessary for low temperature fiber formation.

In contrast the collagen fiber of the claimed invention comprises a compound of collagen and a thermoplastic polymer in a ratio of 1 to 1 or greater. The fiber produced has enhanced heat resistance, something *Sukurada et al.* neither teach nor suggest is a result of their process.

Monsheimer et al. discloses a method for treating leather to improve its surface characteristics. Polymer particles are used to fill in irregularities in the leather surface.

In contrast to *Monsheimer et al.*, in the claimed invention the thermoplastic resin is comounded with the regenerated collagen, not applied to the surface of a structure. A surface treated fiber would not be heat resistant if styled with an iron or dryer, for example.

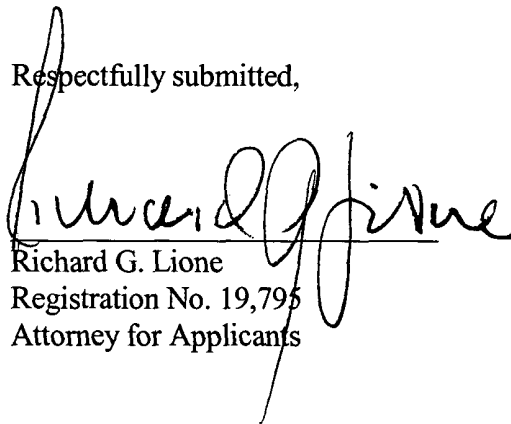
Takumi et al. discloses a solubilized product of animal hair made of keratin, not a collagen. Keratin is a protein totally unlike the collagen of the present invention. *Takumi et al.* also blends the protein and vinyl monomer in a ratio of 1 to 1 or less.

Insofar as the propriety of combining *Sakurada et al.* and *Monsheimer et al.* neither suggests such a combination since each process disclosed is based on a different concept and achieves a different object, as previously discussed. Furthermore, a combined process would not produce the claimed product invention, even if one or both contained a suggestion to combine them.

The combination of *Takumi et al.* with *Monsheimer et al.* is even less pertinent. *Monsheimer et al.* deals with surface treatment, not a compounded fiber. Keratin does not even approximate a collagen.

Original Claims 2-4 should be allowable in their present form. Claims 7-10 depend from them and should also be allowable. Allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Lione", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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